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COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM
LAW OF THE SEA
LAUNCHING OF GLOBAL NEGOTIATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT
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CONSOLIDATION OF THE REGIME ESTABLISHED BY THE TREATY FOR THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (TREATY OF TLATELOLCO)
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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION
ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT
AGENDA FOR DEVELOPMENT

SECURITY COUNCIL
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ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION AND TO YOUTH, AGEING, DISABLED PERSONS AND THE FAMILY
ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN
INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS
MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

Letter dated 8 September 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Coordinator for the Rio Group in New York, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the Final Declaration of the Ninth Meeting of Heads of State and Government of the Rio Group, held in Quito on 4 and 5 September 1995 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the Final Declaration and its appendices circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 25, 39, 52, 57, 65, 70, 74, 77, 80, 97, 98, 99, 101, 105, 107, 109, 110, 114 and 149 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Luis VALENCIA RODRÍGUEZ
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Final Declaration of the Ninth Meeting of Heads of State and Government of the Rio Group, held in Quito on 4 and 5 September 1995

We, the Heads of State and Government of the countries of the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Policy Coordination (Rio Group), meeting in the city of Quito on 4 and 5 September 1995, have agreed to issue the following

Quito Declaration

1. We note that democratic regimes have become the norm in the countries members of the Rio Group. The conduct of free elections and the orderly transfer of power; the full exercise of the right of political opposition; the rule of law; the separation and independence of the different branches of government; efforts to introduce structural reforms aimed at expanding citizen involvement and enhancing social integration; democratic control over the exercise of authority; greater access to judicial systems; and freedom of expression are characteristic features of democracy that are no longer mere aspirations, but present-day realities in all of our countries. This enables us to face with optimism the great challenges we must now address in order to achieve full political and institutional development.

2. We have decided to continue to build a common agenda based on coordination and integration and geared towards promoting peace and the common good, consolidating and strengthening democracy by recognizing the supremacy of civilian authority, modernizing the State and ensuring greater balance, equity and harmony among its institutions, and administering public resources transparently and efficiently, in accordance with our conviction that we are leading our nations towards development through social justice based on the promotion of and full respect for human rights.

3. We reiterate our Governments' commitment to promoting the adoption of cooperation mechanisms in pursuing the fight against corruption. We firmly believe that criminal activity of this kind undermines the legitimacy of our democracies, tarnishes the prestige of their institutions and contributes to a process of social disintegration that distorts the functioning of the economic system. In this regard, we welcome the resolution on probity and public ethics adopted by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) at its most recent session, held in Haiti in June, and we pledge that our countries will participate in the specialized conference to consider the adoption of an inter-American convention against corruption.

4. We reaffirm our strong commitment to continuing the fight against the use and production of drugs, as well as the illicit trafficking and other crimes related to those activities. We believe that failure to win this struggle would endanger Latin American societies and democratic systems. It is therefore essential to seek a comprehensive solution to the problem which encompasses the social and economic aspects of this scourge, as well as reciprocal commitments

that lead to a verifiable and significant decline in consumption and a sharp reduction in supply. We also feel that energetic measures should be taken to combat money laundering, distribution organizations, arms trafficking and illicit trafficking in chemical precursors. In this connection, we reaffirm our support for the convening of a world conference on narcotic drugs and for the preparation of an inter-American convention against money laundering, and we have agreed to work together to ensure that the main consumer countries take a clearer and more decisive view of their responsibility for helping to solve this problem.

In order to prepare a framework for coordinating our countries' efforts in this area, we have also decided to form a working group consisting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. The group will report regularly to the Mechanism.

In addition, we have agreed to hold an ad hoc meeting of the Rio Group in Panama in the first quarter of 1996 to discuss the establishment of a centre, based in Panama, for combating drug trafficking and related crimes.

5. We reiterate our condemnation of terrorism in all its forms, as well as our determination to make vigorous, united efforts to combat this scourge by all available legal means, since it violates basic human rights. In this connection, we express our satisfaction at the convening of the Inter-American Specialized Conference on Terrorism, which will be held under the auspices of OAS.

6. We reaffirm our conviction that peace in our region can be preserved only through respect for the principles enshrined in the Charters of the United Nations and of OAS. In this regard, we recall the affirmations contained in the 1986 Rio de Janeiro Declaration and the Buenos Aires Declaration of December 1992 with respect to the peaceful settlement of disputes. We reiterate our Governments' commitment to seeking peaceful, negotiated solutions, in conformity with international law, to disputes and conflicts of all types in our region. In the same spirit, we reaffirm our unwavering support for the efforts made in those countries which are undergoing processes of pacification and domestic reconciliation.

7. We reiterate the importance of political dialogue with the European Union and consider that its agenda should also include further exploration of economic, social and educational issues and of the transfer of technology. We are determined to seek ways of overcoming obstacles to trade and to encourage European investment in Latin America and the Caribbean to obtain more tangible results during the forthcoming meetings on this subject. At the same time, we emphasize the importance of gradually instituting suitable legal frameworks for promoting such investment. We also feel it would be useful to foster the establishment of new mechanisms and to strengthen existing ones for promoting, facilitating or intensifying contacts between entrepreneurs from the two regions. In this regard, we have instructed our Ministers for Foreign Affairs to intensify this dialogue with a view to making further progress in specific areas of cooperation between the two regions.

8. We stress the historic importance of the Summit of the Americas, its Declaration of Principles and its Plan of Action. We agree on the desirability of implementing the commitments made at the Summit of the Americas and of improving mechanisms for providing efficient follow-up to ensure that its objectives are met. In this connection, we highlight the importance of the document on the implementation of the Summit agreements, presented by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs in Montrouis, Haiti, on 4 June 1995.

9. We affirm our commitment to continue implementing political, economic and social programmes in our countries in order to promote the development of our peoples with a view to eradicating the poverty that still subsists in the region. In this context, we welcome the offer of the Government of Chile to host a hemispheric conference on the eradication of poverty and discrimination in Santiago, on 18 and 19 February 1996, as part of the follow-up to the Plan of Action of the Summit of the Americas. This conference will be devoted to the study of activities and areas of cooperation on the issue.

10. We point out that in order to provide regional follow-up to the commitments made at the World Summit on Social Development held last March in Copenhagen, the competent ministers of the countries of the Rio Group met in Buenos Aires on 4 and 5 May 1995 to finalize a programme for cooperation and policy coordination on social issues aimed at meeting the challenge of achieving equity and social justice and strengthening social programmes within the context of national and international solidarity.

11. We express our satisfaction that the United Nations conference convened to implement the provisions of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development has recently adopted an agreement on implementation of the provisions of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea relating to conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks in the high seas. This agreement will make it possible to devise effective measures for the protection and conservation of living resources of the high seas, which are fundamental as food sources for our peoples.

12. We urge the countries which have not yet done so to ratify without delay the international conventions on biological diversity, climate change and desertification, instruments which will be useful in achieving sustainable development in the hemisphere.

13. We express our concern at attempts to enforce domestic laws beyond territorial boundaries in violation of international law and the fundamental principles governing coexistence in the region. Such actions violate the sovereignty of other States and are contrary to unanimously accepted transparent trade practices.

14. We express support for the initiatives for integration and cooperation in Latin America, the Caribbean and the hemisphere and draw attention to the momentum that these have gained over the last few years. We reaffirm the importance of continuing to support efforts by regional organizations to expand the process of integration on the basis of the existing bilateral, subregional and regional agreements and to promote the convergence of such agreements in keeping with the commitments made in the past at the recent Summit of the

Americas and within the World Trade Organization. With this in view, we reiterate our positive interest, stated at that Summit, in advancing towards free and transparent trade by the year 2005. We note the progress achieved at the recent meeting in Denver and look forward to the forthcoming meeting of trade ministers to be held in Cartagena, Colombia, in March 1996.

15. We recognize the need to rationalize the operations of regional organizations involved in integration and cooperation and, possibly, to restructure them in order to strengthen and adapt them to changed conditions and new needs in the region. In this regard, we note with approval the serious thought and restructuring that have been initiated by some of these organizations, in particular, the Latin American Economic System (SELA) and the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI). We agree that the technical support of these organizations, within their spheres of competence, will provide useful inputs for the work of the Rio Group.

16. We express our firm resolve to advance the physical integration of the countries of the region through concerted policies and actions. In pursuit of this objective, which we consider essential to consolidation of the various integration initiatives in the Americas and for their subsequent coordination on a hemispheric scale, we resolve to recommend to the competent authorities of our countries that a proposal should be prepared for consideration at the next summit. This proposal would envisage implementation of the main regional transport, communication and other relevant infrastructure projects, which would require participation of the public and private sectors, bearing in mind their contribution to the expansion of trade in our region and to links of all kinds between our countries and their ability to attract the major investments that such projects require.

17. We recognize the need to give priority to the use of regional energy resources. In that connection, we agree to develop regional and hemispheric cooperation in the field of energy through plans and programmes that are compatible with national strategies and as a means of achieving the sustainable development objectives which we have set ourselves. In this context, special emphasis should be placed on ensuring that international financial institutions make the most effective use of existing financing facilities and establish additional ones, attracting capital investments in conditions of respect for the domestic legislation of each country and using efficient energy technologies mainly to support the execution of the projects that are necessary for our region in this sector.

18. We note that economic globalization has led to greater economic liberalization and to the integration of our countries into the world economy. Nevertheless, given the integration of capital markets and advances in technology, which permit massive and instantaneous transfers of resources, confidence-building measures must be taken to tap a part of these flows of external savings and to avoid the risks associated with their volatility.

However, it is the encouragement and retention of domestic savings that will set the stage for a healthy, long-term recovery, with external savings being used only as a supplement to national resources. The countries of the region will therefore have to promote the exchange of their experiences in

encouraging domestic savings, as well as consultations with institutions and experts from other regions.

The free and orderly development of financial markets should also be promoted and mechanisms developed to bring about a more stable international financial system which would ensure that increased resources are available to its institutions and that the latter would be capable of detecting, in time, potential exchange-rate and financial crises, which negate the considerable efforts being made by our countries to achieve economic reform, liberalization and stability.

19. Noting the importance of achieving consensus in the hemisphere for the promotion of economic and social development policies while ensuring the efficient use of natural resources, we declare our firm support for the convening of the Summit Conference on Sustainable Development which will be held in the city of Santa Cruz, Bolivia, during the second half of 1996.

20. As the elected leaders of countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, the first nuclear-weapon-free zone, we express our deep concern over and condemnation of the resumption of nuclear tests by the People's Republic of China and the decision of the Government of France to resume testing in the Pacific, the geographic region in which most member countries of the Rio Group are situated. Considering that such actions adversely affect the climate for the pursuit of negotiations on a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty, we urgently appeal to the Governments of all States which possess this type of weapons to observe unilateral or agreed moratoria on all nuclear testing in order to speed up the negotiations on an effectively verifiable multilateral treaty banning all nuclear tests.

We support the decision of the Council of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) to convene a meeting with the members of the Consultative Council of the South Pacific Nuclear-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Rarotonga), to develop a common strategy for the adoption by the fiftieth session of the United Nations General Assembly of an immediate moratorium on all nuclear testing.

21. We urge those countries which have not yet done so to sign and ratify as early as possible the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction. We reaffirm our intention to work together to strengthen the Convention on biological weapons through the adoption of appropriate measures. We also affirm our intention to cooperate in promoting transparency in the international transfers of weapons and in defence budgets and expenditures.

22. We agree to convene the tenth Meeting of Heads of State and Government in the city of Cochabamba, Bolivia, in 1996.

23. We, Heads of State and Government, meeting in Quito, would like to express our gratitude to the President of the Republic of Ecuador, Sixto Durán Ballén, to his Government and to the people of Ecuador and we congratulate them on the efficient organization and conduct of the ninth summit of the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Policy Coordination.

APPENDIX I

Declaration of the Presidents of the Rio Group on prospects for regional integration, issued in Quito on 5 September 1995

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Rio Group, having considered the item "Prospects for regional integration", have decided to establish a working group consisting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Brazil, Chile, Ecuador and Uruguay to consider and recommend courses of immediate action for the rationalization of regional institutions, both governmental and non-governmental. The working group will hold its first meeting in New York during the fiftieth session of the United Nations General Assembly and shall submit a report to the Governments within 60 days.

APPENDIX II

Declaration of the Presidents of the Rio Group expressing gratitude to the Government and President of Colombia, issued in Quito on 5 September 1995

We, the Presidents of the countries members of the Rio Group, meeting in the city of Quito, express our most profound gratitude to the Government of Colombia and to its President, Mr. Ernesto Samper, for their resolute and effective efforts to combat drug trafficking and we offer them our solidarity and support in that undertaking, which is vital to the well-being and stability of the region.

APPENDIX III

Declaration of the Presidents of the Rio Group on social development, issued in Quito on 5 September 1995

The Presidents of the countries members of the Rio Group meeting in the city of Quito,

Considering that the ultimate purpose of the State is none other than to create more equitable societies in which all members can realize their full human potential in terms of the material satisfaction of their basic needs and their intellectual and spiritual development in conditions of freedom, dignity, equality of opportunity and full respect for fundamental human rights,

Aware that their societies are still affected by other factors which, to varying degrees, impede the attainment of the above-mentioned objective, including extreme poverty, discrimination against women, child neglect, and inadequate educational and health services,

Declare that:

1. They reaffirm the right of their peoples to satisfactory levels of development in the various areas which give true meaning to the concept of social development;

2. They will undertake or increase efforts to combat extreme poverty and to improve within the shortest possible time the conditions of the neediest members of society;

3. They will adopt or strengthen concrete measures to incorporate and ensure the full participation of marginalized sectors of the population in the economic, social, civic and cultural life of member States;

4. They will make greater efforts to eradicate all forms of discrimination and to promote more equitable patterns of wealth and income distribution;

5. Their Governments will cooperate even more closely in a climate of peace, good-neighbourliness, goodwill and a sense of urgency to achieve social progress for their peoples.